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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Interpreter: Yuri Shkeyrov
Notetakers: Chris MacPherson, Tim Cronin
and Jeff Blair

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 01, 2004, 2:51 - 2:55 p.m., EDT
The Residence

The President: Vladimir. (U)

President Putin: Hello George. (U)

The President: I am calling to offer deepest condolences for the loss of life in your country. These are trying times and I wanted to let you know that I am thinking about you. (U)

President Putin: Thank you very much, George, for this phone call. It is true that Russia is passing through difficult times. We are under attack on many sides by these terrorists and the responsibility for the 2 attacks on the aircraft was by the terrorist organization which was put on the list by your State Department. And what is currently happening in North Ossetia where terrorists have seized a school where children are at stake goes beyond my understanding and not even a beast would do that. This goes beyond any religion and reminds me of religious fascists, but we are fully determined to bring the matter to the end and we will fight them. Thank you very much for this sign of sympathy and solidarity. And, in spite of the fact that we are passing through trying times, I want to wish you success at your convention. Laura made a great presentation along with your daughters. (S)

The President: Thank you very much. This is not the first time we have done this kind of phone call and it probably won't be.

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(the last. We stand shoulder to shoulder with you in this fight. We sympathize with you, and we will strategize with you. I assure you we will defeat these terrorists. You and I share the same goal. I will see Laura in one hour and I will tell her that the first world leader to congratulate her on a good speech was you and that will make her feel great. (S)

President Putin: That was really a good presentation and she behaved very well and presented herself very well. (S)

The President: Thank you very much. Unfortunately, she probably presented herself better than I will present myself. (U)

President Putin: We shall see. We will be on your side. (S)

The President: Thank you, sir. Thank you for taking my call. Be strong like I know you will be. (U)

President Putin: Thank you, George. And thank you for calling. (U)

(The President: All the best. (U)

President Putin: All the best. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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